

## ***This Week in Congress***

*By Congressman Jerry Moran*

*January 19, 2010*

<http://www.jerrymoran.house.gov>

Dear Friend,

Welcome to "This Week in Congress." Yesterday, Americans celebrated the life and accomplishments of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. By gathering to honor the legacy of Dr. King, we teach important lessons to the next generation of Americans about courage, determination and most importantly, the difference between right and wrong. While our country faces many challenges, Dr. King's story offers an example of how one person can make a tremendous difference that can affect many lives and change the history of our country.

**Kansans Respond to Devastating Earthquake in Haiti**

This week, the world witnessed horrific images of the terror the people of Haiti are experiencing as much of their nation crumbled under a 7.0 magnitude earthquake. The federal government has committed to send aid to help those impacted by the earthquake and several thousand American soldiers have been dispatched to help maintain order. In addition to aid from the government, many Kansans have responded generously by making donations to relief organizations, including the [American Red Cross](#), the [Salvation Army](#), [World Vision](#) and others, as well as to local churches.

The State Department has established a hotline to check on loved ones that are in Haiti. If you have friends or relatives in Haiti, you may call 1-888-407-4747 or email [Haiti-Earthquake@State.Gov](mailto:Haiti-Earthquake@State.Gov). If emailing, the State Department asks that certain information be included about the people you are attempting to reach in Haiti. [Click here](#) to read more about contacting loved ones in Haiti.

I have also been contacted by several Kansas families that are in the process of adopting a child from Haiti. The State Department and the Department of Homeland Security are working together to assist families with their adoption cases. [Click here](#) if you are in the process of adopting a child from Haiti to learn what information is needed to assist you with your adoption case. [My office](#) may also be able to be of assistance. My wife, Robba, and I have those affected in our thoughts and prayers.

## **Preparing to Repeal Health Care Takeover, If Passed**

Health care negotiations continued behind closed doors this week between the President and Democratic leaders in Congress. I am opposed to the current health care reform legislation and the manner in which the final bill is being determined. On Thursday, I was one of the first Members of Congress to sign The Club for Growth's "Repeal It!" pledge, to repeal the Democrats' health care reform legislation should it become law and to replace it with efforts that really reduce health care costs and make insurance more available.

Pelosi-Reid health care reform is one pill Kansans cannot afford to swallow. Not only has the writing of health care reform legislation been influenced by personal handouts and political payoffs, but the House- and Senate-passed bills fail to make quality coverage more affordable and accessible. The health care reform bills being merged in secret are damaging to Kansans and I am firmly committed to support efforts to overturn any federal takeover of health care. Kansans need real reforms that lower health care costs without increasing the size of government. [Click here](#) to learn more about the "Repeal It!" pledge.

## **Continuing to Call for Full Transparency in the Health Care Reform Debate**

With so much at stake in the debate over health care reform, Kansans deserve to know what any final legislation may include. This week, I continued to demand Democratic leaders open health care negotiations to the public by supporting three efforts:

- I signed a legislative petition to force the House of Representatives to consider legislation that insists that any conference committee meetings on health care reform be held before the watchful eye of the public;
- I also signed an Americans For Prosperity petition demanding that the secret negotiations end and that all health care meetings take place before the C-SPAN cameras;
- Finally, I urged House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to make the final version of health care reform legislation available for public review at least two weeks prior to any vote.

## **Reaffirming My Commitment to States' Rights**

This week, I sponsored legislation that reaffirms the commitment of Congress to the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. H.Res 1006 expresses congressional recognition of the value and importance of the 10th Amendment to the Constitution and reaffirms a commitment to safeguard and uphold the 10th Amendment. This follows my support of legislation currently under consideration in the Kansas State Legislature that emphasizes our state's constitutional right to self governance.

The 10th Amendment identifies the Constitution's principle of federalism by providing that powers not granted to the national government, nor prohibited to the states by the Constitution, are reserved to the states or the people. Many Kansans are rightfully frustrated by the encroachment of the federal government in their lives. I share this feeling. Legislation that has passed without my support, including Cash for Clunkers, cap and trade, tax rebate checks, bank bailouts, failed stimulus plans and the government intrusion into health care, place the economic costs on the shoulders of future generations of Americans. Kansans should be able to make more decisions for their families and businesses without the interference of the federal government.

## **Kansas Attorney General Responds to Request to Examine Health Care Bill**

I recently requested Kansas Attorney General Steve Six examine the legal validity of health care reform legislation passed in the Senate on Christmas Eve. This week, Attorney General Six responded to my request, and that of several state legislators, when he announced he is studying the constitutionality of the Senate-passed bill. In addition, Attorney General Six wrote House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid asking them to remove language in the Senate legislation that benefits Nebraska.

Under the Senate-passed legislation, H.R. 3590, the federal government would pay for all new Medicaid enrollees in Nebraska. This special treatment given to Nebraska would cost federal taxpayers more than \$100 million over the next 10 years and make Nebraska the only state where the federal government would pay for all new Medicaid enrollees. [Click here](#) to read more about my request to Attorney General Six.

## **Supporting Proper Reimbursements for Kansas Pharmacies**

As co-founder of the Congressional Community Pharmacy Coalition, I participated in a

conference Wednesday hosted by the National Community Pharmacists Association to discuss Medicaid drug reimbursement issues in health care reform legislation currently before Congress. Reductions in the Medicaid generic prescription drug reimbursement, currently based on the average manufacturer price (AMP) formula, threaten Kansas pharmacies and patients. Since many community pharmacies in Kansas have a high percentage of Medicaid patients and are often located in underserved communities, any further cuts would have a devastating impact and may force pharmacies to close. Thank you to Brian Caswell, owner of Wolkar Drug in Baxter Springs, for also participating and offering another Kansas perspective on this important issue.

### **Discussing Renewable Energy at East Kansas Agri-Energy**

On Thursday, I visited East Kansas Agri-Energy in Garnett to learn more about this ethanol facility that has been producing clean, renewable fuel since 2005. In addition to producing millions of gallons of home-grown fuel each year, the company also provides jobs to local residents and revenue to the area economy. I spoke with Plant Manager Doug Sommer about challenges the industry faces, including those coming from Washington, D.C.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may soon finalize a rule it proposed last year that would place unfair greenhouse gas emission requirements on renewable fuels. This regulation would unfairly penalize the biofuel industry by taking into account land use changes in other countries when measuring the total amount of greenhouse gases emitted by biofuels. It is yet another example of the Obama Administration's lack of understanding when it comes to energy and agriculture. I introduced legislation last May to prohibit the EPA from moving forward with the portion of the regulation that defines how greenhouse gas emissions are measured for biofuels. Thanks to the folks at East Kansas Agri-Energy for their hospitality during my educational visit.

## **Joining Pro-Life Supporters in Hays**

On Saturday morning, I joined pro-life Kansans at an ecumenical prayer service at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Hays. After the service, many participated in a March for Life. Later this week, I will meet with many Kansans who will be in Washington, D.C., for the national March for Life.

## **Meeting with Business Owners and Emporia Residents**

Small businesses are the backbone of the Kansas economy. Communities across our state would no longer exist if their local businesses closed because of financial difficulties. Giving small businesses the opportunity to thrive helps keep valuable industries and jobs in our state. On Thursday night, I attended Emporia's January Main Street Mingle, where small business owners in the city came to promote their products and residents gathered to socialize. Thanks to all those who participated in this downtown business event and for sharing with me how we can better ensure the success of Kansas entrepreneurs and business start-ups.

## **Speaking with Rotary Club Members in Paola**

“Service above Self” is a Rotary Club motto. This week, I thanked members of the Paola Rotary Club in Paola for their dedication to service in Miami County and congratulated these fellow Rotarians on celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Paola Rotary Club. I also spoke about health care reform and other issues before Congress. Thanks to John Domoney, club president, for allowing me to attend this week’s meeting.

## **Touring Cramer Products in Gardner**

While Kansas is known for its strength as a producer and supplier of wheat, beef and other agricultural products, there are many small businesses that manufacture products utilized around the world and provide quality jobs to Kansans. On Thursday, I visited Cramer Products in Gardner to learn more about one such company. Cramer Products makes braces, supports, mouth-guards and other items used by athletic trainers and sports medicine clinicians. The company also founded the National Athletic Trainer’s Association. Thanks to President and CEO Tom Rogge, Vice President of Finance Dennis Katzer, Vice President of Operations Bob Yoksh and Director of Customer Service Beth Albracht for visiting with me and showing me the facility.

## **Joining Lions Club Members in Salina**



Participation in civic clubs helps make Kansas communities strong. On Saturday, I met with many Kansas Lions Club members at their Mid-Winter Rally in Salina, where Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh was the keynote speaker. At a time in which so much is wrong in Washington, D.C., it was good to hear stories about the positive things happening in many communities across our state. Thanks to Denny Smith, the Kansas Lions State Public Relations Chairman, for inviting me to the event.

### **Meeting with Greenwood County Residents**

I met with Greenwood County residents on Friday during a town hall meeting in Eureka. Like many of my recent town hall meetings across Kansas, residents shared their concerns with spending in Congress, the Democratic health care plan and cap and trade legislation. Thank you to Heather Whittaker of Emprise Bank for helping arrange this meeting.

### **In the Office**

Ed Watson and Jack DeBoer of Wichita were in with Foulston Siefkin, LLP to discuss federal government housing programs for short-term rental properties. Scott Bergkamp of Salina, Bill Cooper of Wichita and John Rathbun of Lawrence were in to talk about the benefits of pavement preservation for highways. Lane Allison and Daniel Wallach of Greensburg and Bill Webster of Prairie Village stopped by my office to visit.

Lyn Reynolds of Hutchinson and Nancy Romine of Emporia came by my Washington, D.C., office to receive a tour of the United States Capitol.

## **Contact Me**

It is an honor to serve you in Washington, D.C. Please let me know how I can be of assistance. To send me an email, [click here](#) . You can also [click here](#) to contact me through one of my Kansas offices or my Washington, D.C., office.

Very truly yours,

Jerry